

## OVERVIEW

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While major strides and enhancements have been made in highway safety in Vermont, there is much more that can be done. In 2004, there were 13,793 reported traffic crashes that resulted in 98 persons killed and more than 565 more seriously injured on our highways. To reduce fatal and serious injury crashes significantly, a new approach to highway safety is needed.

This comprehensive method acknowledges that no organization in Vermont is solely responsible in the quest for highway safety. Reducing highway deaths and injuries is the responsibility of all those involved with safety, working in unison; including law enforcement, state and town engineers, emergency personnel, and educators.

On December 12, 2005, Governor Jim Douglas kicked off the development of Vermont's SHSP at a meeting attended by more than 100 safety partners. Seven critical emphasis areas (CEAs) have now been identified and data has been analyzed. CEA Task Teams are identifying strategies and preparing work plans for each of the seven emphasis areas.

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## SEVEN EMPHASIS AREAS FOR VERMONT

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On December 12, 2005, more than 100 Vermont stakeholders met to identify the top contributors to motor vehicle related deaths and serious injuries. They agreed on seven initial target areas for reducing these crashes.

### Young Drivers

#### Increasing Seat Belt Usage

#### Reducing Impaired Driving

#### Curbing Aggressive Driving

#### Keeping Drivers Alert

#### Improving the Design & Operation of Highway Intersections

#### Keeping Vehicles on the Roadway & Minimizing the Consequences of Leaving the Road



## Strategic Highway Safety Plan



### Road Way Safety First!

**Safer driving, Safer roads, Saving Lives!**

*"Every year, this country experiences a national tragedy that is as preventable as it is devastating."*

US Transportation Secretary Mineta

APRIL 19, 2006

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## WHAT IS A STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN?

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A Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) strives to achieve a significant reduction in the number of fatalities and injuries on all public roads. In Vermont, it will provide a framework for highway safety stakeholders to align and leverage our collective resources, identify our key safety needs, and guide investment decisions accordingly.

The SHSP is comprehensive and focuses on **E**ngineering, **E**ducation, **E**nforcement and **E**mergency Medical Services; technically known as the four **Es**. And, it's data driven so that efforts are directed to where they count most.

The SHSP is being developed by stakeholders from throughout Vermont's safety community, with components to be implemented by all of those involved.

## WHY DOES VERMONT NEED A SAFETY PLAN?

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The consequences to Vermont's families, individuals, and businesses are considerable.

- Since 2000, an average of 700 people have been seriously injured and an average of 83 people have been killed each year in motor vehicle crashes in Vermont.
- Estimates of economic losses caused by fatal and serious injury crashes were at least \$483 million in 2004.

## WHAT WILL A SAFETY PLAN GIVE US?

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The most important benefits are coordinated statewide goals and safety programs to effectively reduce highway fatalities and injuries on all public roads. Additional SHSP benefits:

- Strengthen existing partnerships.
- Builds new safety coalitions; sharing data & knowledge; utilizes strengths & resources of all safety partners.
- Eliminates redundant activities; leverages existing resources-funds, people, and leadership attention - toward common objectives.
- Incorporates behavioral and engineering counter-measures for a greater impact on reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries.

## HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

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- You could be on one of the seven task teams.
- You can review documents and provide comments.
- You can help promote the SHSP within your organization.
- You can implement the strategies listed in the SHSP.

## MISSION

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The mission of the Vermont Strategic Highway Safety Plan is to minimize the occurrence and severity of crashes, related human suffering and economic losses on the Vermont transportation network. We will accomplish this by identifying and implementing achievable and effective education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency response initiatives.

## GOAL

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The goal of the Vermont Strategic Highway Safety Plan is to reduce the number of major crashes to 350 or fewer each year by 2010 (from 437 in 2004) thus resulting in 40 fewer fatalities and 26 fewer incapacitating injuries per year.

**For more information & to get involved  
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